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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/532,682
Amendment filed March 19, 2010
Reply to OA dated October 21, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claim 1, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of separating ergosterol from a solution containing ergosterol in water-insoluble organic solvent, which comprises

supplying a trace amount of water to said solution and precipitating ergosterol from said solution containing ergosterol in water-insoluble organic solvent by cooling crystallization,

wherein the trace amount of water supplied is within such a range of amount that no phase separation to form two liquid phases occurs between the water-insoluble organic solvent and water, and

the water insoluble organic solvent is aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons or a mixture thereof.

Claim 2 (Canceled):

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing ergosterol in the water-insoluble organic solvent is a solution extracted from a microorganism containing the ergosterol using the water-insoluble organic solvent, or a solution

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obtained by extracting ergosterol from the microorganism using another solvent and then replacing said another solvent with the water-insoluble organic solvent.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble organic solvent is hexane, heptane, octane, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the supplying water is conducted by continuously or intermittently moisturizing a gas phase portion within an apparatus for precipitating ergosterol.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ergosterol is separated by precipitation as an aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% to 90%, and the crystallinity is an amount of crystal component in the aggregate by measuring water of hydration by thermogravimetric analysis.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): An ergosterol aggregate having a crystallinity of 50% to 90%, wherein the crystallinity is an amount of crystal component in the aggregate by measuring water of hydration by thermogravimetric analysis.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

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Claim 9 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble organic solvent is hexane and the amount of water supplied is between 1 and 100 ppm with respect to the hexane.